

Remarks

Claims 30-33 are under consideration and are the only claims of this application.

Claims 30 and 31 are presently amended.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 30 and 31 are amended to set a clear line of demarcation between the present claims and the disclosure of U.S. Pat. No. 5,977219 to Ravichandran, et al.

Applicants note that R_5 of Ravichandran may be $-OR_6$ where R_6 is a C_1-C_{24} alkyl substituted by OH and by OR_4 where R_4 is alkyl (col. 4, lines 42 and 50-52, col. 3, lines 49-50).

Applicants also note that $-OR_6$ of Ravichandran may be $-(OCH_2CH_2)_wOH$ or $-(OCH_2CH_2)_wOR_{21}$ where w is 1 to 12 and R_{21} is alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms (col. 4, lines 50-54).

Present claims 30 and 31 are amended to delete the definition of T_1 as alkyl substituted by one hydroxyl group and interrupted by one oxa moiety, and to delete the definition of T_1 as $-(R-O)_n-R-OG_3$ where R is ethylene. This is relevant where present E_1 , E_2 or E_2' are a group $-(CH_2)_m-CO-X-T_1$.

No new matter is added with the present amendments.

Applicants submit that there is now no overlap between the disclosure of Ravichandran '219 and the compounds of the present claims.

Claim Rejections

Claims 30-33 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Ravichandran '219.

Applicants note that the present application is a divisional of U.S. app. No. 09/496,084, filed February 1, 2000. Ravichandran '219, issued Nov. 2, 1999, does not qualify as 35 USC 102(b) prior art.

Further, in view of the present amendments discussed above, Applicants submit that any 35 USC 102(a) or (e) rejections are also addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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